



FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

11 JUNE 2007

KEY ISSUE:

The performance of Surrey Fire & Rescue Service in Elmbridge for the period 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007.

SUMMARY:

There are five areas of performance monitored – two areas were on target and three areas were off target.

The improved performance of Elmbridge continues and evidence of this is shown by implementation and development of projects to reduce the number of calls to Automatic Fire Alarms, Arson, Road Traffic Collisions and Dwelling Fires. The projects have had an excellent impact on the 3rd and 4th Quarter performance figures.

Staff are now more willing to use the flexibilities that are available to them via new working arrangements (Limited Borough Autonomy) to support safety initiatives across the Borough, one example of which was a multi agency safety event in the Hart Shopping Centre for Road Traffic Collision reduction, water safety and fire safety.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Elmbridge Local Committee

- (a) Note the performance of the Service within Elmbridge.**
- (b) Support the achievement of the personnel at Esher, Walton and Painshill Fire Stations.**
- (c) Endorse the initiatives by the Service to reduce the hazards of fire and other incidents in the community.**
- (d) Endorse the initiatives by the Service to work with partners to influence behaviour in the community.**
- (e) Recognise that following evaluation of initiatives funding may be requested in order for them to be implemented, maintained or continued.**

1 INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

- 1.2 Responsibility for delivering the Surrey Fire & Rescue Services Integrated Risk Management Plan in Elmbridge is devolved to the North Area management team and the Borough Manager for Elmbridge, together with the fire crews based at Esher, Walton and Painshill Fire Stations.
- 1.3 The framework to achieve this has been through the Surrey Fire & Rescue Service Borough Plan for Elmbridge 2006 -2007. Issues specific to the borough such as the building of partnerships with the local authority, police, schools, YOT and the identification of incident trends ensure the borough team contribute fully to the specific needs of Elmbridge.
- 1.4 Through our prevention and protection work businesses are advised on how best to conform to fire safety legislation, additionally we undertake safety activities in local schools and the community. The aim was, and remains, to encourage people to change their behaviour thereby reducing the risk of emergency incidents occurring. However, accidents happen and we need to ensure we are able to respond when required through intervention.
- 1.5 Surrey Fire and Rescue Performance is measured against Best Value Performance Indicators. For the Service as a whole, nine of the 16 indicators are on or better than target and four are significantly worse (over 10% off target). The four BVPI's off target are; BVPI 143ii Number of Injuries from accidental dwelling fires, BVPI 149i Number of False alarms caused by automatic fire detection, BVPI 206i Number of deliberate primary fires, BVPI 207 Number of fires in non-domestic premises.
- 1.6 To improve the performance of Elmbridge four projects to reduce the number of calls to Automatic Fire Alarms, Arson, Road Traffic Collisions and Dwelling Fires were launched in September. These projects have had an excellent impact on the 3rd and 4th Quarter performance figures.

2 ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

- The fire ground covered by the appliances based at Esher, Walton and Painshill fire stations also covers part of three other boroughs (Guildford, Woking and Mole Valley) and incidents within these three other boroughs get recorded within Elmbridge's figures.
- 2.1 The major areas of performance for Surrey Fire and Rescue Service in Elmbridge are monitored against the following five groups of Best Value Performance Indicators.

- 2.2 **On Target BVPI 206i & 206iii** Number of deliberate fires (excluding vehicles) significant reduction from last years total of 100, down to 78. 1st Q 26 calls, 2nd Q 24 calls, 3rd Q 14 calls, 4th Q 14 calls. Refuse container fires continue to be an issue; this is being tackled through a multi-agency approach. In addition, continuing the Arson Reduction Project for 2007-08 and closer links with the Arson Task Force should see the improved performance maintained.
- 2.3 **On Target BVPI 206ii & 206iv** Number of deliberate fires in vehicles, reduction from last years total of 33, down to 29. 1st Q 8 calls, 2nd Q 6 calls, 3rd Q 7 calls, 4th Q 8 calls.
- 2.4 **Off Target BVPI 142i** Number of fires attended, small increase on last years total of 411, up 10 to 421 fires. 1st Q 119, 2nd Q 142, 3rd Q 86, 4th Q 74, continued effort on projects, links to Home Fire Risk Checks and Arson Reduction initiatives. Effort on projects is believed to be having an impact, links to Dwelling Fire and Arson reduction folders. Without the large number of incidents attended at Brick Kiln Farm, the number of the fire calls attended would have been down by approx 5%. Brick Kiln Farm is on Painshill fire ground, however, and these incidents are in Guildford Borough.
- 2.5 **Off Target BVPI 146ii** Number of calls to malicious false alarms. Significant increase on last years total of 13, up 10 to 23 calls. These are low numbers but saw Elmbridge drop from second best to joint 5th performer in Surrey. Remedial measures are planed for action in the Elmbridge 2007-08 Borough Plan.
- 2.6 **Off Target BVPI 149i** Number of false alarms caused by automatic detection (AFA's). Significant rise on last years total of 326, up 72 to 398. 1st Q 102 calls, 2nd Q 132 calls, 3rd Q 92 calls Amber, 4th Q 72 calls. Prior to Sept AFA reduction work limited, redressed through re-launch of AFA Folder, links to North Area Watchs, and improving availability of protection team has allowed the AFA Coordinator role to be activated. Identified for action in the Elmbridge 07/08 Borough Plan, and we should see an improvement in performance for 2007-08.
- 2.7 To plan a reduction in activity and monitor the risk reduction in Elmbridge, four projects introduced part way though 2006 – 07, will be maintained for 2007-08. They are Unwanted Call Reduction (AFA & Hoax), Dwelling Fire Reduction, Arson Reduction and Road Traffic Collision Reduction; they form the major part of the 2007-8 Elmbridge Borough Plan.

3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 Dialogue with our partners has been continuous in order to inform current and future practice.

- 3.2 Formally this has taken place at various levels and includes the Local Strategic Partnership, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, the Joint Action Group and Nuisance Prevention Group. However, many more informal links have been created and maintained that have enhanced our overall contribution to the Borough.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 For 2006-07 funding was granted to support the Community Room facilities at Walton Fire Station and also for some banners to support the Road Traffic Collision Projects at Esher, Walton and Painshill. Community Room facilities (coffee machine) £1041. Banners £3278, of which £2750 was provided by the Local Committee and £528 was provided by the Surrey Safety Camera Partnership.
- 4.2 For 2007-08 a bid for £2400 to improve the presentation and education facilities available for use by the crews based at Esher and Painshill Fire Stations. This will support delivery in the community of initiatives aimed at reducing Dwelling Fires, Road Traffic Collisions and Arson.
- 4.3 During 2007-08, following evaluation of progress with implementing the four key projects (Unwanted Call Reduction (AFA & Hoax), Dwelling Fire Reduction, Arson Reduction and Road Traffic Collision Reduction) funding may be requested in order to support risk reduction initiatives linked to the projects.

5 CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Area Manager for the North (Dave Steggles) represents Surrey Fire and Rscue Service at the CDRP, the Borough Manager for Elmbridge (Dave Keelan) represents the Service at the Elmbridge Joint Communications Group, and the One Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership. Chris Webb (Station Manager Painshill) on the Health and Social care Partnership, together with the CIAG. Kevin Noble (Station Manager Esher) on the Business Forum, all ensuring the Service's views and expertise contribute to reducing crime and enhancing safety.
- 5.2 The main area where SF&RS support the CDRP agenda and the reduction in crime statistics (BCS basket of ten indicators) is through reducing criminal damage (arson). The link between abandoned cars and arson is proven and any decrease in the former will influence the latter.
- 5.3 The Firewise Advisory Scheme has brought its concerns about nine specific cases to these groups. This partnership approach has ensured a wider view has been taken in order to prevent an escalation of offending behaviour.
- 5.4 Personnel from across the Borough are now contributing to the Youth Engagement Scheme run at Walton Fire Station. This sees the

borough contributing financially and practically in one area to assist with youth diversion.

- 5.5 The fire crews at Esher, Walton and Painshill have also supported other youth diversion and safety projects such as 1st Gear, Junior Citizens and Fire Fighter For a Day.
- 5.6 The Borough Manager and Fire Safety Officers participate in multi-agency visits with the local authority and police to licensed premises. This entails advising owners/licensees, or using enforcement powers in the interest of public safety.

6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Service Diversity Strategy ensures that Surrey Fire & Rescue Service provide a fair and equitable service, both internally to all of our staff and externally to the communities of Surrey. We value everyone within these audiences, as an individual, whether they are an employee or a service user.

7 CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Fire crews and appliances based at Esher, Walton and Painshill form part of the wider resource required to meet the Fire and Rescue Services Integrated Risk Management Plan for Surrey. The number of calls to incidents is not directly in the control of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service. The number of calls is influenced by outside factors, for instance, a long hot summer, changes in scrap prices for vehicles or an individual with an unhealthy interest in fire. The Service therefore plan to address performance issues through a balance of prevention, protection and response initiatives that are focused through the local Borough Plan to meet the identified needs of Elmbridge.
- 7.2 The Committee is asked to note the performance of the Service in Elmbridge and to recognise the potential for improved performance offered by the projects that form the 2007/08 Elmbridge Borough plan.

Report by: Area Manager Dave Steggles

LEAD/CONTACT OFFICER: Dave Steggles

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 07968834480

EMAIL ADDRESS: dave.steggles@surreycc.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS: Available on request from Dave Steggles, the Elmbridge Borough Plan, The Integrated Risk Management Plan – Our 2020 Vision
